

## Message Text

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16-51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 MC-02 NEA-10 EUR-25 PM-07

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DODE-00 L-03 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 CCO-00 /141 W

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R 061100Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0791

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1520

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA FOUR AND FIVE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, LY, PFOR

SUBJECT: C-130 AIRCRAFT FOR LIBYA: US/LIBYA RELATIONS

REF: TRIPOLI 1483

1. MFA DIRECTOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, NAJIB SHAYBANI, ASKED ME TO SEE HIM DEC 6 AND IN LOW KEY MADE DEMARCHE FOR EXPORT LICENSES FOR C-130 AIRCRAFT (NUMBERS UNSPECIFIED, BUT MORE THAN ONE). HE INDICATED THAT LOCKHEED HAD SUGGESTED THIS STEP.

2. I REPLIED THAT NEED FOR EXPORT LICENSES BEFORE DELIVERY HAD NEVER BEEN IN DOUBT AND REFERRED TO EMBASSY'S NOTE OF MAY 22, 1972. SHAYBANI WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH IT, SO I HAD HIM READ IT AND POINTED OUT KEY SENTENCE IN ATTACHED LETTER THAT USG DECISION ON LICENSES "WOULD BE DETERMINED IN LIGHT OF ALL RELEVANT FACTORS AT THAT TIME", I.E. NOW IN THE CASE OF THE FIRST C-130. THE QUESTION WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON, AND I WOULD REPORT HIS REQUEST, BUT I COULD NOT PREDICT THE OUTCOME. SHAYBANI PRESSED FOR FAVORABLE REPLY, BUT I MADE NO COMMITMENT.

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3. THEN TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SOME POINTS ABOUT US/LIBYA RELATIONS. SAID THAT IN MY PERSONAL VIEW THE "RELEVANT FACTORS" IN DECISION HE REQUESTING INCLUDED FAR BROADER CONSIDERATIONS THAN HE MIGHT IMAGINE--GENERAL STATE OF US/LIBYAN RELATIONS, M.E. SITUATION, EVEN GLOBAL RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND U.S.S.R., AS M.E. WAS AN AREA OF POSSIBLE TENSION IN THE CONTEXT. FACT WAS THAT USG CONTINUED MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF TERRITORIAL AND PALESTINIAN QUESTIONS, WHILE COL. QADHAFI VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED EVERY SUCH EFFORT. I DID NOT SEE HOW THIS COULD BE DISREGARDED. SHAYBANI TOOK REFUGE BY REFERRING TO ISRAELI REFUSAL TO WITHDRAW TO OCT 22 CEASE-FIRE LINE, AND COMMENTED THAT ANYWAY A FEW CARGO PLANES WOULD NOT CHANGE THE M.E. POWER BALANCE. I REPLIED THAT A) IF HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE, SURELY ONLY THE USG HAD A CHANCE OF DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT, AND B) WHILE I WAS ALWAYS ASKED FOR SOMETHING WHEN CALLED DOWN TO MFA, THERE WAS NOTHING GIVEN IN RETURN.

4. EXPANDING ON THIS LATTER POINT, I SAID USG HAD LONG LIST OF COMPLAINTS RELATING STRICTLY TO BILATERAL RELATIONS--HARASSMENT OF AMCITS AND DIPLOMATS (IN THE PAST), THE CLAIM LAID TO EMBASSY'S RESIDENCE, THE TAKEOVER OF AN UNDEVELOPED PLOT OF LAND BELONGING TO USG, EVEN THE VANDALIZATION OF AN AMERICAN CEMETERY PLOT. MOREOVER, MFA HAD TAKEN NO EFFECTIVE ACTION TO OUR REPEATED REQUESTS FOR COMPENSATION FOR: A) NATIONALIZED 51 PER CENT OF AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES, B) VARIOUS PREVIOUS CASES OF EXPROPRIATED PRIVATE PROPERTY, C) EXPROPRIATED USG PROPERTY ON EL-FATAH STREET, D) DAMAGE TO CHANERY ON BALCOUR DAY, 1969. I HANDED HIM A LIST OF THESE CLAIMS. SHAYBANI IGNORED THE FIRST ITEM, SAID HE WAS ACTIVELY WORKING ON THE SECOND ONE, AND WITH REGARD TO THE LAST TWO REMARKED THAT THESE THINGS TAKE TIME. I EMPHASIZED THAT SOME OF THESE CLAIMS ARE NOW FOUR YEARS OLD, AND THIS CERTAINLY MADE A VERY BAD IMPRESSION.

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5. IN CLOSING, WHEN SHAYBANI PRESSED FOR AN EARLY REPLY ON THE C-130'S, I COUNTERED BY POINTING OUT THE DIFFERENCE IN THE LARGE TAKES TO REACH

EFFECTIVE DECISIONS ON MATTERS I HAD RAISED AND THE TIME HE WAS ASKING FOR OUR DECISION IN THE C-130 AFFAIR. I DID NOT PROMISE ANYTHING, BY ANY TIME.

JOSIF

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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